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Serving San Jose State University Since 1934

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER

10 2008

STUDENT CULTURE PAGE 9



Remembering the holiday classics

OPINION PAGE 11



Deadly Black Friday

ONLINE



Cruising with the longboarding club



TH	F	SA	SU
65	64	53	50
44	47	44	40

Primed to fight against predators



Two students in the Rape Aggression Defense class practice self-defense techniques designed to combat rape.

Courtesy of the Navy R.A.D. Program

BIANCA deCASTRO
Staff Writer

He came from behind. She was getting money at an ATM when he put her in a chokehold. She felt herself becoming dizzy from the attack. He dragged her toward his vehicle where he intended to strip off her clothes and rape her.

SJSU's Rape Aggression Defense class is geared toward teaching women how to avoid such scenarios and defend themselves against similar attacks.

"Our primary objective is to serve the community, which in this case means the SJSU community," said Lee Heitzman, a University

Police Department officer. "Possibly anything could happen, and people should be aware of what goes on around them."

The Rape Aggression Defense system is a program of realistic self-defense tactics and techniques for women.

It serves as a comprehensive,

women-only course that begins with discussing and learning about awareness, prevention, risk reduction and risk avoidance.

Then it progresses to basic, hands-on defense training, according to the UPD Web site.

►► **RAPE**page7

English department gets creative with a new writing major for next semester

ADAM MURPHY
Staff Writer

A minor in creative writing and a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing are offered, but no major for it exists at SJSU.

That will change next semester. "For years we have been hearing about how our students wished that they could have a concentration in creative writing," said Assistant Professor Nick Taylor. "It takes a long time for a new concentration to work its way through university administration, and it came through last spring."

Spots are already filling up, said English Professor Alan Soldofsky.

"We have students that are now

coming into us from marketing, advertising, theatre, radio and film, who are all thinking about switching to creative writing," Soldofsky said. "That is what they are most motivated to do. Write short stories, or poems or non-fiction."

Soldofsky said that it took two years of development to get the program approved.

"I am excited that there is a creative writing major in addition to the minor," said Danielle Roberts, a senior English major.

Writing in some form would seem the obvious career choice for creative writers, but Soldofsky stressed that the intangibles of a creative mind will help in any job environment.

"Creative people are at a premium," he said. "The difference between somebody that has a spark is that they are going to set themselves apart from all the other candidates, especially in this economy."

Students who graduate with an English degree make a portfolio containing all of their best writing, Taylor said. He mentioned that the portfolios come together under the eye of a professor to ensure it will appeal to potential employers.

Soldofsky described creative writing as "just like music. The more you practice, the more writing muscles you build up."

►► **CLASS**page2

San Jose City Council commends group from engineering department that created zero-emissions vehicle ►► **ZEM**page3



A reporter from the Singtao Daily interviews Professor Tai-Ran Hsu (left) outside the San Jose City Hall Council chambers on Tuesday afternoon, where a plaque was presented to the ZEM team in recognition of their zero-emissions vehicle.

DEREK SIJDER / Spartan Daily

Holt Murray, sculptor and SJSU alumnus, dies at 76



Courtesy of Shumel Thaler

Holt Murray

RIE NAKANISHI
Staff Writer

Holt Murray, a lifelong devoted sculptor and San Jose State alumnus, made a deal with his dentist friend in the early '60s that he would make a big bronze sculpture in exchange for a bridge for his teeth, according to a story that same friend wrote on a memorial page created on Murray's Web site.

Murray died unexpectedly on Nov. 15 at the age of 76.

He lived his life as a true sculptor. Murray was originally interested in creating jewelry, but progressed to casting bronze, metal and other kinds of materials as he studied industrial arts at San Jose State in the late 1950s.

After earning his Bachelor and Master of Arts and teaching credential from San Jose State, Murray started teaching at Cabrillo College from the mid 1960s until his retirement in 1996.

"He lived and believed as a sculptor."

►► **OBIT**page2

CAMPUSIMAGES



Computer engineering graduate students Kunal Bhatia (left) and Roni Tan try to receive a radio signal transmitted by classmates near the Student Union for their Wireless Embedded Systems class on Wednesday. Their longest distance of successful reception is 188 meters, they said.

MIKE ANDERSON / Spartan Daily

SPARTA
GUIDE
EVENTS CALENDAR

20 SATURDAY

Winter Paradise
Charity Ball

A benefit event for the Asian American Donor Program featuring live entertainment, dancing and a three-course meal. Cost is \$35 to \$40.

6 p.m. at the VAC/NORCAL Community Center, 2129 South 10th St.

For more information, contact Yen Tran at 318-4969.

Sparta Guide is provided free of charge to students, faculty and staff members. The deadline for entries is noon, three working days before the desired publication date. Space restrictions may require editing of submission. Entries are printed in the order in which they are received. Submit entries online at thespartandaily.com or in writing at DBH 209.

CLASS► Creative writer is a ‘risk taker, someone who enjoys being surprised,’ professor says

A portfolio constructed of a student’s best creative work will go a long way toward landing that first job as an editor, a writer, or in another field.

“(Employers) talk about how they prefer to hire people with at least some creative writing training,” Taylor said. “They have an innate sense of how to make something interesting.”

Thinking outside of the box may help land a job in a tough market, but not everyone is suited to the creative writing program, Soldofsky said.

He described a creative writer as a “risk taker, someone who enjoys being surprised, who is not driven by grades or money, who knows how to use the inward eye, who wants to be more conscious of the lives around him or her and maybe a bit of an exhibitionist.”

He added that a creative writer is “somebody that knows how to wield words with power.”

The Bay Area is a hub of poetry and creative writing in the United States, Soldofsky said.

He added that the history of creative writing is what led him to the Bay Area when he was 22.

English majors have the chance to publish their work in Reed Magazine, an annual publication put out by the English department that consists of poems, short stories and artwork of SJSU students.

“(Creative writing) offers a lot of foundation skills you can use in many things,” Danielle Roberts said. “By having the creative writing as your major, it enables you to think outside the box.”

OBIT► Anchor shackle played major role in art

tor and enjoyed it so much,” said Sean Monaghan, who was one of his students at Cabrillo College and is currently teaching bronze casting as Murray’s successor. “He was a very, very revered teacher. Many loyal students really appreciated him as an instructor.”

He established his first bronze casting foundry studio in San Jose in 1961, and the community college foundry at Cabrillo College in 1966.

There were hundreds of students who were inspired by Murray’s sculpting and went to work across the nation.

Before he came to San Jose State, he spent a few years in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, which became the main inspiration for his work — namely, his mechanical sculptures and a collection of his work called the Hardware Series.

“Anchor shackle was a big part of his imagery,” Monaghan said. An anchor shackle is a stainless steel shackle with a bolt-like cotter pin.

Murray said on his Web site that his experience working with Navy tools and his childhood experience with farm machinery and steel mills spurred him to create mechanical scul-

tures. His collection includes a sculpture on Pacific Avenue in Santa Cruz.

“My intention with this group of works was to produce pieces which look real, seem plausible, even look familiar, to come as close to accepted reality as possible,” he said on the same Web site. “They are illusion. I’m attempting to involve the viewers in a game.”

Margaret, his wife of 48 years, said a lot of his works reflected his classical personality.

Another passion of Murray was listening to opera and classical music.

Margaret said his family bought him a laptop last year after he discovered that the opera program he listened to on the radio every Saturday morning was no longer broadcasted, but was streamed online.

That was the first time he was officially introduced to the world of computers and the Internet.

“After that, he found all other public radio stations that had classical music, so he would be using that in his studio,” Margaret said.

Murray was not only a great sculptor, but also as a husband, a great man, Margaret said.

“As a husband, he was very

wonderful,” she said, adding that being an artist herself, she misses working on projects with him. “It was the enjoyment of both of us working (together). It is hard for me to do something and not wanting to ask him.”

After retiring from Cabrillo College, he began devoting some of his time to gardening at his house in Corralitos. In his five-acre garden, he had a collection of maple trees and bonsais, a Japanese tray planting. Murray often took visitors on tours of his garden.

Ken Matsumoto, who was studying at the San Jose State art program when Murray was attending, said he was always a gentleman.

“(He was) always open. (He would) not only share what he does, but listened to what others do,” he said. “He left too soon.”

In addition to Margaret, Murray is survived by daughter Rebecca Snead, son Kenneth Murray and several grandchildren. One son, Jeffrey Murray, died before him.

A public tribute to Murray and his work will be held at 1 p.m. on Dec. 13 in the Erica Schilling Forum, Room 405, at Cabrillo College.

CORRECTION

In the story “Longboarding club trains its members to skate” from Dec. 9, the story should have identified the president of LocoMotion Longboarding as Matt Chavez.

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Spartan Daily’s new bosses set goals for spring



New executive editor John Hornberg (left) and new advertising director Vanessa Alessi stand near Dwight Bentel Hall, where the Spartan Daily is produced. CARLOS A. MORENO / Spartan Daily

JOEY AKELEY
Staff Writer

The start of every semester sparks a new era for the Spartan Daily. Next semester, the Spartan Daily will be led by recently appointed executive editor John Hornberg and advertising director Vanessa Alessi.

Hornberg, a senior journalism major, said his vision for next semester involves making online as valuable as print.

“It’s about getting it more online, giving students more options online, giving them a more interactive Web site, as well as maintaining the Spartan Daily’s high standards in print publication,” he said.

This semester’s executive editor, David Zugnoni, said Hornberg, as managing editor, never tired during the Fall semester.

“I know it seems like a small part of the responsibility of being an editor,” said Zugnoni, a senior journalism major, “but it is actually really important to

stick with it and not lose your motivation, and John won’t lose his motivation.

“John’s passion gets him through the tough times,” he added.

Hornberg, 23, said new online editor Jon Xavier, a senior journalism major, will play as big a role as any other editor on his staff.

“It’s basically making the Web site its own news outlet, its own way of reaching the people rather than a place where we put news articles that have already run in print,” said Xavier.

Xavier said Hornberg understands the new trends in the world of journalism.

“I think a big hallmark of his regime will be changing the Daily to catch up with the world,” he said.

MackLundstrom, an adviser to the Spartan Daily, said the Spartan Daily has not missed a scheduled publication date in 74 years, and that streak will continue under Hornberg’s supervision.

Vanessa Alessi, a junior advertising major, said her first goal is to help each advertiser individually.

“One of my goals is to help people figure out their niche within the industry,” she said. “That helps them a lot, because then they have a better idea of what they should be focusing on career-wise.”

Alessi, 20, said she has giant shoes to fill in replacing Ramon Hernandez, this semester’s advertising director.

“He can sell like nobody’s business,” Alessi said. “He’s a really good seller.”

Hernandez said Alessi’s dedication makes her right for the job.

“What Vanessa really brings to the table is she is extremely thoughtful when it comes to the needs of clients that we have,” said Hernandez, a senior advertising major.

“She will always look for the best way to help them out.”

Tim Hendrick, an adviser to

the Spartan Daily advertising department, said her youth is not a concern.

“Frankly, I didn’t even know her age when we talked about the position, because I saw her skills and I saw her abilities,” Hendrick said. “I saw a spark there that I knew was very positive and very impressive.”

Hornberg said the Spartan Daily is an advertising and editorial team.

“Advertising and editorial, no matter how much people tell me otherwise, are intertwined, because we don’t have a paper without either one,” he said.

Alessi said she and Hornberg will work together to avoid any problems that arose between the advertising and editorial departments the previous semester.

“It is good that we are dealing with those issues already, so hopefully we can work on that, kind of be able to have that open communication between each other,” Alessi said.



Group honored at City Council meeting for work on emission-free vehicle

MATTHEW KIMEL
Staff Writer

Picture a metropolis — think Silicon Valley or Motor City — being smog-free, while still having vehicles on its roads.

Members of the zero-emissions vehicle team from SJSU’s College of Engineering said they would like to market their car and create cleaner cities after a ceremonial commendation by the city of San Jose to the team Friday during a City Council meeting.

The team was presented a plaque from Mayor Chuck Reed for the design and fabrication of an environmentally sustainable vehicle for urban transportation.

“We are here to commend them,” Councilman Sam Liccardo said. “This is a San Jose State solution to gas-free, emission-free urban transportation of the future.”

The vehicle combines the latest technology to use solar power conversion. It can be plugged into an electric socket or, with passengers aboard, can be pedaled by foot, he said.

“Apparently, since Fred Flintstone doesn’t have a patent on it, they are getting one now,” said Liccardo.

The vehicle, which won first prize in the national “Idea-to-Product Competition” at Princeton University, can go from 0 to 5 mph in 35 seconds and up to 40 mph.

“We are proud to have this extraordinary innovation happen right here at our very own San Jose State University,” he said.

The mayor handed the team the commendation, accompanied by a round of applause from the semi-filled council chambers.

Tai-Ran Hsu, a professor of mechanical and aerospace engineering at SJSU, spoke on behalf of the team.

Reena Obediah, a senior mechanical engineering major who represents the team, was not able to attend the council meeting. Yusuf Ali, a mechanical engineering graduate student, represented Obediah throughout the meeting, Hsu said.

Ali and Hsu both said it was a great honor to be recognized by the city.

Hsu thanked the city for its support and encouragement toward the team.

SJSU ombudsperson, an impartial mediator for conflict resolution, helps students deal with disputed grades

JASON LE MIERE
Staff Writer

It’s finals time again, and students are concerned about the grades they’re going to get in a couple of weeks. But what do students do if they are unhappy with a grade they have received?

One avenue for students is to contact the university ombudsperson. It appears, however, that many students are unaware of this individual.

“I had no idea,” said Gaurang Patel, a computer science graduate student.

Ben Roberts, a sophomore behavioral science major, said he was also unacquainted with the role of the ombudsperson.

In fact the role of ombudsperson has been around since the late 1960s, when the position was introduced to deal with the social issues of the time, said current ombudsperson Demerris Brooks.

“As the university ombudsperson, my job is to make sure that the policies and procedures established by the university are applied fairly and consistently,” said Brooks, who took up her position as SJSU’s ombudsperson in August of this year.

The ombudsperson is impartial and attempts to help point students in the right direction if they have an issue with “grade disputes, concerns about changes to course content during the course of the semester and com-

plaints about specific actions of staff or faculty members,” Brooks said.

Kelly Harrison, a senior behavioral science major, has had a problem with one of her grades before, but was unaware of the ombudsperson.

“I’ve been unhappy, but I haven’t done anything about it,” she said. “I just feel that it’s already difficult going through administration stuff as it is, and I kind of avoid it if I have to.”

Patel also encountered insufficient routes through which to resolve his grade dispute. He consulted another professor who advised him to try and find other students with a similar complaint and then go to the department chair. Unable to do so, he failed to follow up his complaint.

Brooks said she also believed that not enough students were aware of her position and how she can help them.

“Being new in this position around the time that school started, I didn’t have the opportunity to do so as much marketing as I would like to,” she said.

Brooks said she hopes to correct this problem in the future.

“One of the things I definitely would like to do in the future is to be involved in the transfer orientations and the new student orientations,” she said. “Just so that students that are coming to campus have a good idea of

this as an additional resource for them as students here at SJSU.”

If students have problems with their grades, they must have a valid reason for their grievance to be taken any further, Brooks said.

“There are certain areas of a grade that it’s not possible to dispute,” she said. “Generally what happens if the grade is determined by something other than the criteria that was published in the green sheet, then the student has the grounds there for a grievance.”

Brooks also helps resolve disputes with other areas of university policies and procedures. Harrison believes this kind of assistance is needed.

“I just felt like I got pushed around to different people back and forth and no one really answered my problems,”

Harrison said of the university’s administration.

Of the 165 cases that Brooks has dealt with this semester, the majority were resolved informally, she said. If an informal resolution cannot be reached, then the next step is for the case to go before the student fairness committee.

“It’s made up of faculty, staff and students,” Brooks said. “The faculty and staff are appointed by the Academic Senate and the seven students seats are appointed by Associated Students.”

Brooks had some advice for students if they have a grievance with the university.

“The burden of proof really is on the student,” she said, “so the better prepared they are with documentation, green sheets, e-mails, that kind of information, the better case they have.”

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Football team's bowl aspirations get smashed

ALLIE FIGURES
Staff Writer

SJSU football head coach Dick Tomey said he was not surprised when the team did not receive a bid to the Motor City Bowl, or any other bowl game.

The Spartans, who were bowl eligible with a 6-6 record, lost the final bowl bid to Florida Atlantic University.

"We were happy to have been eligible," Tomey said. "We would have loved the chance to have a winning season."

The Western Athletic Conference guarantees the top three teams in the conference a bowl bid, Tomey said. SJSU finished sixth.

According to the San Jose Mercury News, at least \$500,000 in tickets needed to be purchased by the team to participate in the Motor City bowl. Florida Atlantic secured its bid by purchasing an additional \$250,000 in tickets Sunday morning.

The Spartans needed one more win in the final three weeks of the season to finish 7-5, and improve its chances of receiving a bid.

Each team that defeated SJSU during that stretch — Louisiana Tech, Nevada and Fresno State — is playing in a bowl game.

SJSU began conference play 3-0, including a victory against University of Hawaii, a bowl-eligible team, and were in first place in the conference before playing Boise State on Oct. 24.

"I feel very responsible for the fact that we didn't finish well," Tomey said. "The buck stops with the head coach."

SJSU finished the season losing four of its last five games.

David Richmond, a senior wide receiver, said this was the closest he has ever come to playing in a bowl game and that he was disappointed that the team did not get a bid in his final season.

"We hurt ourselves," he said. "Things happen. You never know, when it comes to college football."

Tomey said that although the team's final losses played a major factor in not receiving a bid, Florida's proximity to Detroit may have been an advantage over the Spartans.

“The ability to finish in the fourth quarter in the games we lost was not a positive,” Tomey said. “We just didn’t compete well down the stretch.”

Since 1990, the Spartans have only played in one bowl, the New Mexico Bowl in 2006.

The Spartans have played in a bowl in eight seasons: 1947, 1949, 1971, 1981, 1986, 1987, 1990 and 2006, winning five.

Under Tomey's coaching in the past four years, the team has been bowl eligible twice.

“The guys that are here have done a really nice job helping us build this program,” Tomey said. “I believe in all of these guys.”

Last year, a .500 record was good enough to receive a bid to a WAC-affiliated bowl, as 6-6 Nevada played in the New Mexico Bowl.

Richmond said that if the team wants another chance at a bowl game, improvements need to be made with its offense.

In the NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision, SJSU's offense placed 112th out of 119. Despite the ranking, Tomey said he plans to make no changes to the coaching staff.

"We didn't score enough," Tomey said about the offensive struggles. "We turned it over too much."

Along with improvements to the offense, Tomey said his plans for next year include better performance all around.

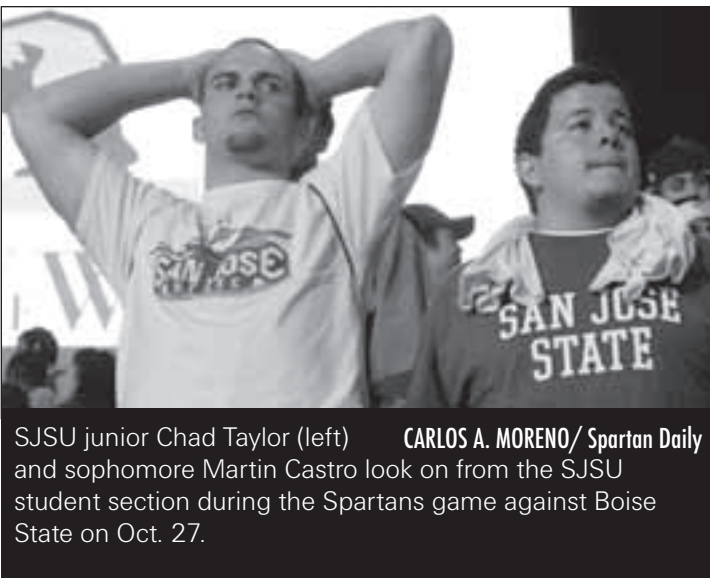
"We have to get better in all positions," he said. "We are not set in any position and everybody will be in competition."

A grueling offseason and



Louisiana Tech's D'Anthony Smith sacks SJSU quarterback Kyle Reed on Nov. 8. The Spartans lost the game 21-0, marking the first time SJSU was shut out at home since 1968.

DEREK SIJDER / Spartan Daily



SJSU junior Chad Taylor (left) and sophomore Martin Castro look on from the SJSU student section during the Spartans game against Boise State on Oct. 27.



SJSU home sports during winter break

Date	Sport	Opponent	Location	Time
Dec. 12	W. Basketball	California	Event Center	8:00 pm
Dec. 13	W. Basketball	CSU Bakersfield	Event Center	4:00 pm
Dec. 14	Gymnastics	Exhibition	Spartan Gym	4:00 pm
Dec. 20	M. Basketball	N. Colorado	SJ Civic Auditorium	3:00 pm
Dec. 22	M. Basketball	USF	Event Center	7:00 pm
Jan. 3	M. Basketball	La. Tech	Event Center	5:30 pm
Jan. 3	W. Basketball	Santa Clara	Event Center	8:00 pm
Jan. 5	M. Basketball	New Mex St.	Event Center	7:00 pm
Jan. 8	W. Basketball	Idaho	Event Center	7:00 pm
Jan. 9	Hockey	Texas A&M	Sharks Ice	8:00 pm
Jan. 10	W. Basketball	Hawaii	Event Center	7:00 pm
Jan. 10	Hockey	Texas A&M	Sharks Ice	7:00 pm
Jan. 16	Gymnastics	BYU, UC Davis	Spartan Gym	7:00 pm

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Year Ending June 30, 2008		
<u>Assets</u>		
Current Assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents		\$ 2,543,355
Receivables:		
Accounts Receivable	\$ 720,315	
Returned merchandise - vendors	<u>1,612,778</u>	2,333,093
Inventories		1,582,183
Prepaid expenses		<u>93,392</u>
Total Current Assets		6,552,023
Noncurrent Assets:		
Notes Receivable		360,000
Long term receivable		17,715
Fixed Assets, at cost:		
Land	\$ 2,710,000	
Building	2,570,397	
Equipment, furniture and fixtures	4,731,151	
Leasehold improvements & Construction in progress	<u>4,909,016</u>	
Total fixed assets	\$14,920,564	
Less accumulated depreciation	<u>(7,730,494)</u>	7,190,070
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>\$14,119,808</u>
<u>Liabilities and Net Assets</u>		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable		\$ 2,642,784
Notes payable, current portion		122,459
Accrued liabilities		<u>1,057,513</u>
Total Current Liabilities		\$ 3,822,756
Deferred rent		8,626
Notes payable, less current portion		2,879,159
Accrued post retirement benefits		945,113
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted		
Designated	\$ 777,282	
Undesignated	<u>4,376,872</u>	5,154,154
Temporarily restricted		<u>1,310,000</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		<u>\$14,119,808</u>

A complete set of the audited financial statements may be reviewed in the Executive Director's Office located on SJSU campus.

SPORTS COMMENTARY

Poor play results in SJSU not receiving bowl bid

RYAN BUCHAN
Staff Writer

Seven weeks ago, the SJSU football team played for first place in the Western Athletic Conference. SJSU was 5-2 and looked to be a sure bet for a bowl game. Since then, the Spartans choked away their season, losing four of their final five games.

What bowl game are the Spartans (6-6) going to? None. They are bowl eligible but they are staying home. The only bowling they are going to do is on the bottom floor of the Student Union — at the bowling alley. Was SJSU screwed out of a bowl game, as Florida Atlantic University got the last bid to play in the Motor City Bowl? Hell no.

The San Jose Mercury News reported that the Spartans were set to go to the Motor City Bowl, but Florida Atlantic University offered to buy \$250,000 more in tickets than required. It seems SJSU lost out because Florida Atlantic University paid to go to a bowl game. They were paying good money to stop the Spartans from being embarrassed. For that, I thank them.

The Spartans did not deserve a bowl game this year. The only way the Spartans could consistently score this season was when the offense did not have the ball. The Spartans finished the season ranked No. 106 of 119 teams in scoring offense. The offense was so bad this year that it ended a 40-year streak of avoiding a home shutout.

Nobody wants to turn on the television and watch a team that is not going to move the ball. It's boring.

The only way the Spartans could consistently score this season was when the offense did not have the ball.

The Spartans have also struggled when featured on national television. Since Dick Tomey came to coach the Spartans, SJSU has won only one of its four games shown to a national audience — the New Mexico Bowl — defeating the New Mexico Lobos 20-12 in 2006.

Another reason SJSU should not go to a bowl game is that it has trouble getting fans to come to home games.

If they can't get people to show up in San Jose, who's going to show up in Detroit?

This season ended where it started — with disappointment. I know the Spartans won their first game, but is defeating UC Davis, a Football Championship Subdivision team, by three points worth being proud about? It took a last-second touchdown to pull out the victory.

A team like SJSU should destroy UC Davis. The only aspect of the Spartans worth watching was the defense.

In 2004, the year before Tomey came to SJSU, the Spartans allowed their opponents to score more than 30 points in all but two games, and allowed more than 50 points three times.

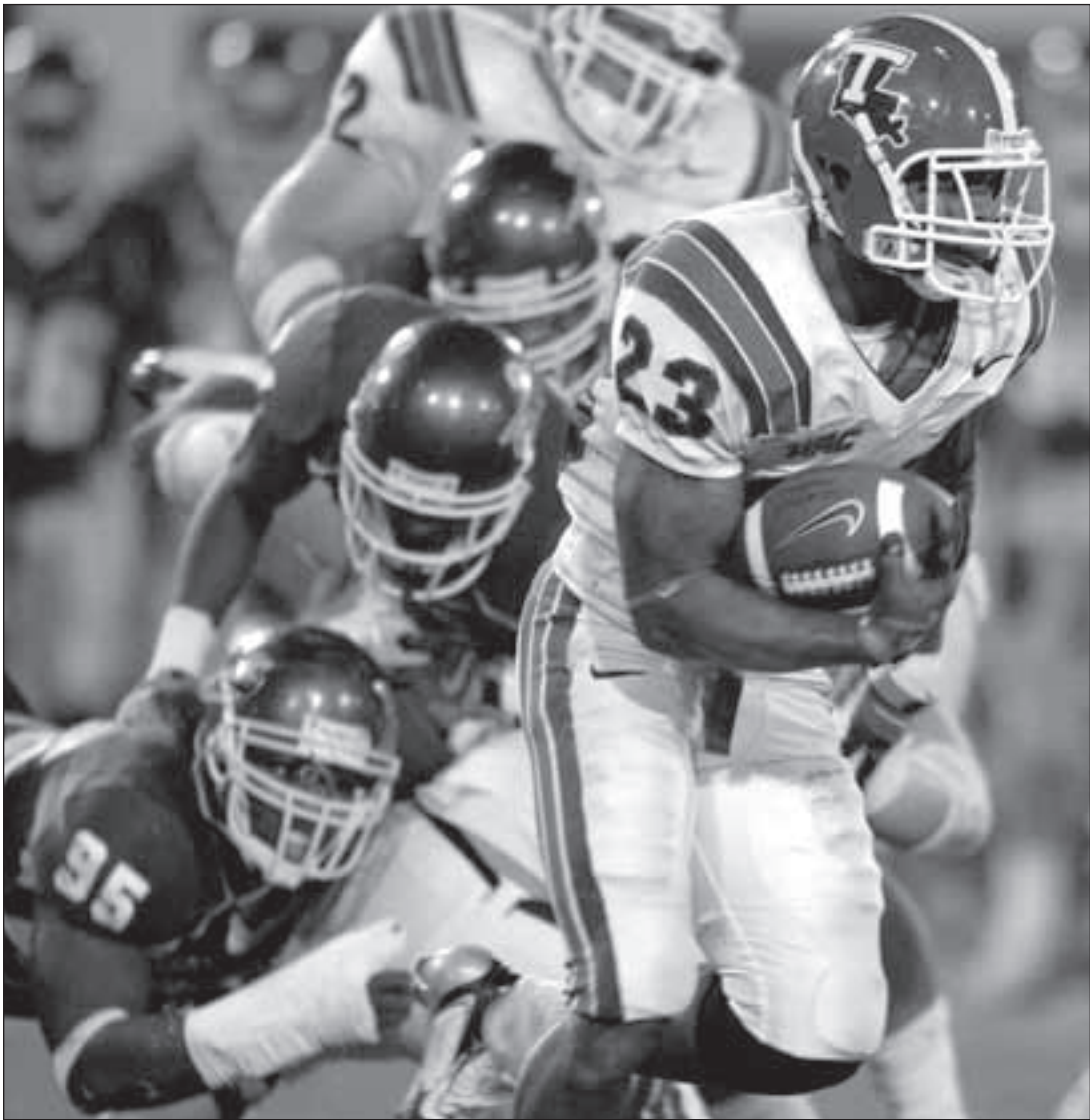
Over the years, the Spartans have improved in that realm. It's nice to say your university's football program is ranked No. 22 in total defense.

The other side of the ball has struggled this year, and many blame offensive play caller Marcus Arroyo.

At times, it seems like Arroyo does not know when to call a screen pass. The offense also seemed to lack variety in the types of plays being ran.

Tomey recently said that no one on the coaching staff would be forced to leave.

The team can't afford another year at the bottom of the offensive rankings. Fortunately for Tomey, the only direction the team's offense can go is up.



Louisiana Tech's Patrick Johnson runs the ball against SJSU on Nov. 8 at Spartan Stadium. The Spartans lost the game 21-0 in their first home shutout in 40 years. SJSU lost its next two games and finished the season 6-6, missing a bowl berth.

JOE PROUDMAN /Contributing Photographer

SJSU gets win at San Diego

Senior Tim Pierce leads Spartans in points

Staff Report

The SJSU men's basketball team won 56-52 on the road against the University of San Diego on Monday. It was the Spartans' third victory of the season and their second on the road, improving their record to 3-3.

Senior forward Tim Pierce led the team in scoring with 23 points, and shot 5-7 from three-point range. Junior center Chris Oakes was the second leading scorer with 16 points and led the team with 14 rebounds. Only one player on the bench scored for SJSU, as freshman

forward Clint Amberry had three points. Senior forward Gyno Pomare led San Diego with 18 points, and sophomore guard Matt Dorr recorded 10. The Spartans have 10 days off before playing against Northern Colorado University on Dec. 20 at the Event Center.

Scoring summary	1	2	Final
San Jose State Spartans	25	31	56
San Diego Toreros	27	25	52

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Navy recruits two SJSU students, helps with tuition

Software engineering major gets ready for take-off as aircraft warfare officer

CORINNE SPECKERT
Staff Writer

Dalton Nguyen, a senior software engineering major, is one of eight students in the country accepted into the U.S. Navy's Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program, where he will train to be a naval officer and manage an aircraft carrier.

"I really want to do more for the greater good than for myself," Nguyen said. "Words can't describe it. I was pretty much speechless to finally know that I can serve my country in the way it should be."

With Nguyen's acceptance into the program, he is treated as an officer, receiving active-duty benefits, according to a news release. He will receive about \$5,000 a month, plus health and dental benefits for up to two-and-a-half-years or until he graduates from SJSU.

Upon graduation, Nguyen said he would be sent to the Officer Candidate School in Rhode Island for a 12-week training program.

"It's an intense program, taking people with no leadership experience in the military and turning them into naval officers in 12 weeks," Ensign Charles Noyes said. "It's an incredible challenge and very rewarding."

Nguyen said that of the five years he is expected to commit to the Navy, the first two will qualify him to be an aircraft warfare officer. During the third year, he would be sent to the U.S. Navy Nuclear Power School in Charleston, S.C. The last two



Courtesy of Dalton Nguyen / MySpace

years, he would be assigned to an aircraft carrier.

Although the program gives participants the choice of being an officer aboard a nuclear-powered submarine or an aircraft carrier, Nguyen said he was limited to aircraft carriers because of his eyes.

"The reason they gave me was because of the pressure difference," he said. "They said my eyes are more prone to popping out than others. Even though I'm restricted to aircraft carriers, I like them better."

"I like the environment," he added. "You can actually see the sun."

To qualify for the program, Nguyen had to pass a seven-part test, he said, challenging him on a range of subjects including math, science and reading. He said he was then flown to Washington D.C., where he was interviewed by two nuclear engineers who tested

him on calculus and physics.

"They can pretty much ask you anything," Nguyen said. "But they're really trying to make sure that you have the ability to think technically. They never want to hear you say, 'I don't know' or 'I give up.'"

The last step determining Nguyen's admittance into the program was an interview with Adm. Kirkland Donald, director of naval nuclear propulsion.

"It was one of the hardest things I've ever done in my life (because) he is the final person to say if you're in or not in five minutes, and if he says no, you can't apply for the program again," Nguyen said.

The program may be new to Nguyen, but he is no stranger to the Navy.

"At the beginning of the year I was feeling really ambitious, so I joined the Navy Reserve," he said. "And some things happened along the way and I was going to quit, but then I talked to my Navy recruiter and he recommended the nuclear program."

Lt. John Adcock, director of the Navy officer programs, said he recommended the Nuclear Propulsion Officer Candidate Program to Nguyen, and Nguyen was accepted into the program because of his strengths.

"His education qualifies him for the program, and it was something that interested him, but the decision was up to him," Adcock said. "It takes a certain type of personality and a sense of self confidence, and he's definitely self confident."

KELLY ENOS
Staff Writer

Michael Pickens, an SJSU communications major, is on course to graduate in Spring of 2010. In the meantime, his education is being taken care of by the U.S. Navy.

Pickens was a recent selectee of the Navy's Baccalaureate Degree Completion Program, which provides money for students to focus on completing their degrees without having to take on a part-time job.

Students in the program will graduate with a guaranteed job as a commissioned officer in the Navy. The eligibility requirements considered for the program include achieving a minimum GPA of 2.7 and completing at least 30 hours of classes each semester, or 45 hours each quarter, said Lt. John Adcock, director of the Navy officer programs.

By the time they apply, students must also have less than 36 months to graduation for a technical degree. Applicants pursuing non-technical degrees are eligible when they are within 24 months of graduation, Adcock said.

Pickens said his reason to join the program was simple.

"I heard about the program from my Navy recruiter," he said. "I wanted to be a part of it because it gives me good pay while in college with very minimal duties to the Navy until after graduation."

"I was also planning on applying for commission after graduation anyway, so this is all like free money," he added. "Right now I have close to no responsibilities



Courtesy of Michael Pickens

is the alternative to the Naval Academy and the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps programs at universities. These four-year programs produce naval officers. Similarly, OCS produces naval officers, but it does it in 13 weeks," he said.

Adcock explained the further benefit of the program.

"(The program) is a very financially rewarding program for applicants and a tremendous tool for recruiters to attract top-quality college students to begin a career as a naval officer," he said.

"Candidates are selected by an officer community and when determined that the applicant possesses the desired skills, abilities and professional growth," Adcock said, "the Naval Reserve Committee staff conduct an evaluation of the applicant's academic record, and selection is (made) based on the assessment of the individual's potential to meet the academic performance standards prescribed for the program."

Another impact that helps gaining entrance to the program is extracurricular activities, which may include work, family support and community organizations, Adcock said.

Pickens said that when he graduates, he hopes to join the Navy SEALs and eventually become a civilian fire captain.

Adcock said students in the program have one responsibility to the Navy while enrolled in college.

"There is no chance in hell to do anything but go to college and get good grades," he said.

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RAPE 'Traditionally, people don't think that men get raped'

CLASS IS IN SESSION

Lawrence Nadeau, a U.S. Marine, founded the program in 1989. It is the largest organization of its kind and it is the only organization or program ever endorsed by the International Association of Campus Law Enforcement Administrators, according to the Rape Aggression Defense Systems Web site.

SJSU is one of 12 California State University campuses that currently offer the training program, according to the same Web site.

UPD Sgt. Jenny Pak, one of the instructors, said the largest class was 16 students and the

last class was 14. She said large groups are difficult for the instructors because they want to make sure students get the right amount of attention and education.

The program coordinator, Sgt. Mike Santos, said classes will be offered five times a year, specifically twice per semester and once during the summer. Each session runs on a Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on a Sunday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

THE INSTRUCTORS

On Nov. 22, Heitzman, Pak and police dispatcher Katherine Eldridge of the UPD gathered on campus to teach a group of

women the basic principles of physical self-defense.

Heitzman and Eldridge assisted Pak in teaching students various hands-on training techniques that were intended to simulate the experience of an attack.

Pak, the main instructor of the class, said she was passionate about teaching students techniques on how to assess their safety in dangerous situations and how to defend against possible attacks.

"Jenny Pak is a good bad guy," said Eve Avalos, a program participant.

Pak brought the hands-on training to a more realistic level of experience by playing the role

of an attacker and challenging students' knowledge of defense.

In a program that is directed toward female students and has mainly female instructors, Heitzman, the only male instructor, said he loves teaching the class and thinks nothing of being the only male in the group.

WOMEN ONLY

Although SJSU offers women-only classes, Heitzman said that there are rape aggression defense classes for men and children, but they are currently not offered at SJSU.

"It's a matter of demand for the classes and what people would take," Heitzman said. "There just isn't demand for that right now."

One SJSU student said he would be interested in taking a men's rape aggression defense class.

"Traditionally, people don't think that men get raped," said Mufaro Zakers, a freshman Spanish and pre-med double major. "It could be a good step to making people aware of things that could really happen."

"Initially, it probably would be hard because guys have this certain pride, like that sort of thing couldn't happen to them," Zakers added.

The program is not exclusive to SJSU female students. Heitzman said females ages 12 and older can participate in the class on campus.

It is available for \$15 if they are not affiliated with the university. However, a lower

price of \$5 is offered to SJSU students and \$10 for university staff.

Eve Avalos attended the program with her daughter, Vanessa Avalos, a sophomore justice studies major.

"I came to the program thinking that it would be fun and educational," Eve Avalos said. "And it was."

"I want my daughter to have any opportunity to learn how to protect herself."

Vanessa Avalos said, "I learned a good amount. It's a good program and I think more SJSU students should take it."

Another participant, Rachel Ostraat, said she came from Mountain View and it was her

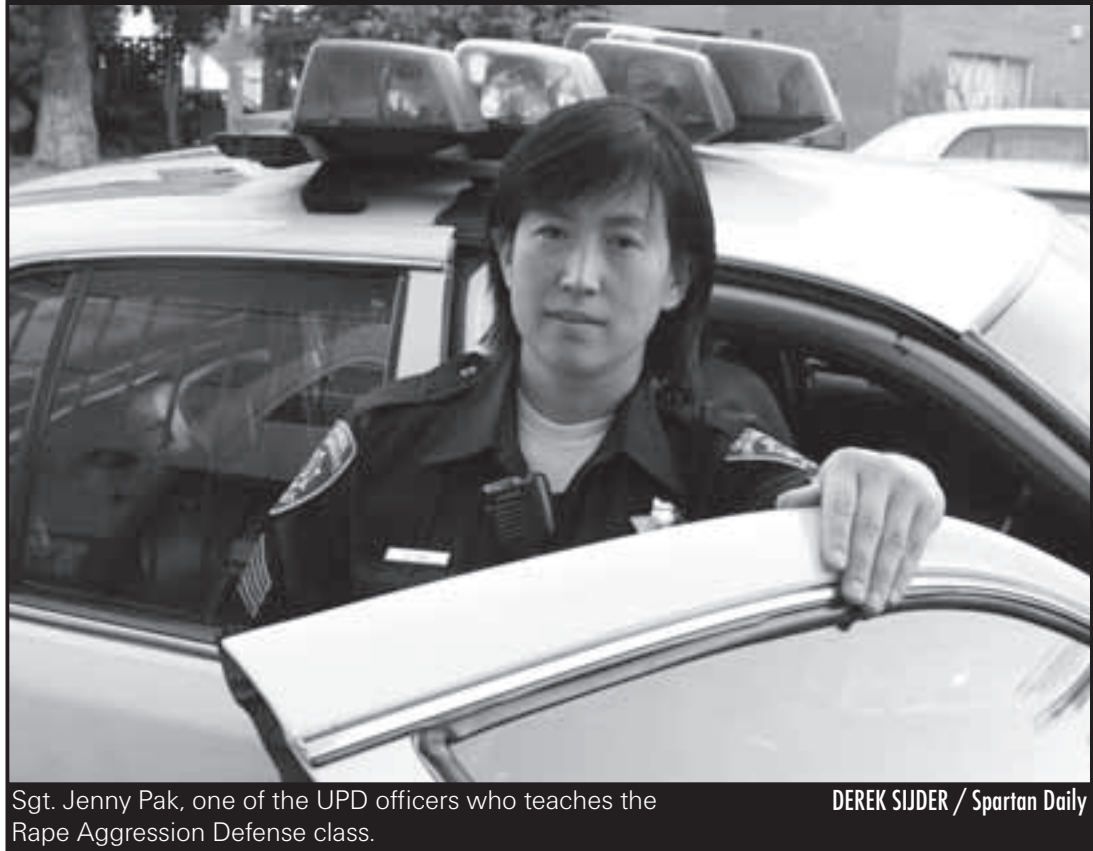
second time attending the class.

"I took the class before, in another state, before I moved out here," she said. "I liked it, so I brought a friend. The simulations were well organized and overall, it was well worth it."

Ostraat's friend and fellow participant, Samantha Peng, said that taking the class has allowed her to realize the actuality of possible dangerous situations.

"The teaching of techniques and how not to panic, I think, were the most helpful," Peng said.

"I thought, 'What if there was a real (dangerous) situation?,'" Peng said. "I'm glad to be prepared. It's better than knowing nothing."



Sgt. Jenny Pak, one of the UPD officers who teaches the Rape Aggression Defense class. DEREK SIJDER / Spartan Daily

COMMENTARY

SJSU's rape defense class: tedious but invaluable

BIANCA deCASTRO
Staff Writer

The number of reported rapes at SJSU in 2008 has at least doubled from three in 2007, according to crime logs from the University Police Department.

SJSU, in conjunction with the UPD, offers a recurring Rape Aggression Defense class that aims to teach women how to defend themselves in dangerous situations against assault and rape.

In my opinion, the program wasn't given sufficient publicity. A link on the UPD Web site gives instructions on how to sign up, but some students don't visit the site on a regular basis.

"I had to really look for the program," said Eve Avalos, a participant of the class. "It wasn't like it was easy to find."

I didn't see fliers anywhere I walked on campus, including three department buildings, the Student Union, the food court and the Associated Students Child Development Center.

I wasn't given any prior instructions on where the class was held. The flier I received from UPD didn't specifically state where the class would be.

When I arrived at the UPD building, the lobby was empty, so I picked up the department phone and spoke to a woman who was not able to help me.

I waited for a few minutes until a police service assistant wandered into the lobby. I asked him where I could find the class and he instructed me to go to the second floor.

Finally, the experience began.

The first day lasted eight hours, beginning at 8:30 a.m. It was difficult because the readings were dry, long and tedious.

"There's just no way to get around them," said Sgt. Jenny Pak, a program instructor. "They are very important and they are a part of the program."

Pak told a participant that she could not go home and practice the moves on her husband.

The beginning of the program didn't seem to promise much for the rest of the class, considering all the boring reading and roundtable discussions concerning the contents of a 62-page participant manual, complete with photos from the 1980s.

What made the program bearable were the people who taught it. Full of humor and passion, Pak tried her best to keep the students awake.

"(The manual) was so boring," Avalos said. "But I could tell that (Pak) was trying so hard to make it bearable. (UPD Officer Lee Heitzman) was a great instructor and related well with everyone."

After about five straight hours of reading the manual, we were allowed an hour break for lunch. When we returned, the hands-on training portion of the course began.

We were shown various counter-attack moves and techniques

on how to defend ourselves against an attacker.

For safety precautions, the actual techniques used in the Rape Aggression Defense training cannot be discussed.

All program participants were instructed not to replicate the techniques or show them to members of the opposite sex.

Pak told a participant that she could not go home and practice the moves on her husband.

Sunday, the second day of training, also began at 8:30 a.m. This day was scheduled for five full hours of hands-on training with no breaks longer than 15 minutes.

The training was intense and physically demanding, ending with an individual simulation for each student.

All students were instructed to wait. Then, one at a time, we were called into a room for a special simulation, each not knowing what to expect.

All students completed a life-like simulation, utilizing techniques learned in class. The experience was one-of-a-kind and compares to nothing that I have experienced in life.

Being put in a simulated situation where I was at risk for being a possible rape victim, I visualized myself fighting for my life. That experience was very real.

The hands-on training and knowledge that I learned from the class are invaluable, and although I hope I never have to use my newly acquired skills, I know that they are there and ready.

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Christmas tunes to love and hate

ANGELO LANHAM, Student Culture Editor

It's that time of year again. You will not enter a mall, or any other sort of store for that matter, without hearing "Jingle Bell Rock." I hate that song. Somewhere along the line, somebody decided that six days before Thanksgiving was the appropriate time to begin the bombarding of this tune, along with scores of other sappy holiday crap. But fear not, somewhere amidst the seasonal drivle of good cheer exist Christmas songs that are actually listenable. Stick to this guide, and you will know what to avoid, and what to seek out.

BEST

"Father Christmas" by The Kinks — Any song that references beating up Santa if he doesn't fork up cash, and demanding that he give all the toys "to the little rich boys" and asking Santa for a machine gun to scare all the kids on the street is top choice in my book.

"Happy Xmas (War Is Over)" by John Lennon — Here's a nice guilt trip. "So this is Christmas, and what have you done / Another year over, a new one just begun."

I don't know about you, but the first time I hear this one each holiday season, I mutter an expletive to myself, admit my worthlessness and crack open my first bottle of holiday cheer. It's also interesting that the "war is over" refrain at the end is once again relevant.

"Zat You, Santa Claus?" by Louie Armstrong — Leave it to Louie to come up with a creepy Christmas song.

After the minor chords followed by probably unintentionally horrifying jingle bell sound effects, Louie says "Zat you, Santa Claus" after mentioning a bump in the night. And it sounds as if Santa's some sort of psychotic prowler by the way Louis's talking about him.

"The Chipmunk Song (Christmas Don't Be Late)" by Alvin and the Chipmunks — While I never wanted a hula hoop, I believe I received several over the course of my childhood. This tune brings back all the nightmares of those annoying, rattling rings. It also makes me wish I had helium and two friends I could sing harmonies with.

"Santa Baby" by Eartha Kitt

— This song is hot. It sounds like Betty Boop is hitting on Santa in some seedy 1940s nightclub. Nothing can be cooler than that. Madonna wrecked it in 1989 with her baby talk version, though.

WORST

"Jingle Bell Rock" by anyone — Bobby Helms is responsible for the most common incarnation of this tune, and it just doesn't rock. It only serves to be annoying, and that I do not appreciate.

Apparently, Billy Idol sold the rest of his soul and did a version of this, complete with cheesy smiles and head tilting.

"Wonderful Christmas Time" by Paul McCartney — One winter day, Paul McCartney came home to his mansion, had too much egg nog and decided to write a Christmas song. This slop

is the result.

"Anything by Mariah Carey — No one needs as many high notes in a Christmas tune as Mariah provides.

"Little Drummer Boy" by anyone — Unless you're going to figure out a way to incorporate a brutal drum solo, don't bother redoing this well-worn tune.

"Feliz Navidad," by Jose Feliciano — Calm down. Put down the chair, this isn't a bad song. With that said, I wish I didn't hear it 719 times every holiday season. The first five times I hear it each year, I actually enjoy it, and it makes me all warm and fuzzy.

By the time I've squeezed the song out of plush Santas with tags that say "try me" in department stores and have heard it every time I venture outside, though, I begin to have



Photo Credit: Courtesy of World Records
Album covers by Paul McCartney and The Kinks.

DON'T HOG THE NOG, DOG

DRINK OF THE WEEK



Photo Courtesy of Miss Ginsu's recipes

EGG NOG

ALLIE FIGURES
Staff Writer

As a child, egg nog was always my favorite Christmas drink, but little did I understand its full potential.

What could be more festive this holiday season than a delicious cup of foamy egg nog? How about egg nog the old-

fashioned, adult way — spiked with some classy brandy or spiced rum.

This traditional cocktail has the power to soothe you with nostalgia of Christmas-past, all while sneakily tipping you over the edge. I believe it to be invented by my grandmother in order to survive the season of

horrendous holiday attire, candy cane ornaments and popcorn balls — to remain sugary-sweet to her overly excited brood of grandchildren.

The creamy concoction is made by beating milk, cream, the all-important brandy or rum, separated eggs, cinnamon and nutmeg until it reaches its infamous lathery consistency — no ice necessary. This recipe is so simple it can be recreated by even the most novice of bartenders.

Don't be afraid to get crafty with your own custom egg nog variations.

If brandy or rum is not quite your style, try the more trendy sake as an alternative. Or try adding Kahlua, a coffee liqueur, as a mild version of the White Russian without the vodka. Add one part peppermint schnapps to jazz up your drink, or Bailey's Irish Creme can also be substituted to kick your holiday drink up a notch.

If made my way (the right way), just one glass of egg nog should do the trick. The heavy cream and the alcohol team up to ease away the stress of the day. But this is not a drink to pound one after another at the bar. Savor an entire glass and your stomach will be blissfully content.

Caution to those of you who overindulge: Any more than one glass of egg nog, alcoholic or not, will result in an upset stomach. This drink is far too rich and must be had in moderation.

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X-mas movie reviews

MARK POWELL
Sports Editor

If an overcooked turkey, an incinerated house cat and Chevy Chase telling Julia Louis-Dreyfus to essentially stick a Christmas tree up her behind doesn't sing to modern holiday sentiments, I don't know what does. See **"National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation."**

ALLIE FIGURES
Staff Writer

Forget coal. Piss off Santa at Christmas time and something drastic will happen.

Or so is the case for Scott Calvin, played by Tim Allen, in **"The Santa Clause."**

Sudden weight gain, rebellious reindeer and a super-charged sleigh are all what the divorcee must endure on Christmas Eve after being forced to be the next Santa Claus.

Scott does his duty and delivers all of the presents to the good, little boys and girls. Just when he thinks his responsibilities as St. Nicholas are over, he is transported to the North Pole where some elves with attitude inform him that he is now Santa Claus because he put on the infamous red suit.

I love this movie because Tim Allen's character goes through such trouble to finally make his son proud.

As a child of a divorced family, this movie shows me that holidays do not have to be a stressful situation of splitting time in torn families.

Instead, Christmas at mom's and/or dad's can be filled with just as much cheesy happiness and joy as before the papers were served.

KIMBERLY TSAO
Student Culture Editor

"General opinion's starting to make out that we live in a world of hatred and greed — but I don't see that — seems to me that love is everywhere."

"Love Actually" weaves multiple stories together to fashion a movie that is both witty and touching.

While the film has its fair share of romantic couples (Hugh Grant and Colin Firth — albeit not together), they aren't the one-dimensional boy-girl relationships in similar, lesser movies. The on-screen couples range from a man who's in love with his best friend's wife to people who speak in different tongues to porn stars who work with each other before they ever go on a first date.

"Love Actually" doesn't limit itself to the amorous type, either. In fact, one of my favorite storylines doesn't involve romance. I love the cast. I love the script. I love the movie. You'll love it so much, you'll want to marry it and grow old together. "Love actually is all around."

MEGAN HAMILTON
Production Editor

"White Christmas" takes everyone back to a time when real talent lit up the silver screen, and the only special effect was Vaseline over the lens. This movie musical from 1954 employs a triple-threat cast of actors, singers and dancers.

Bob Wallace (Bing Crosby) and Phil Davis (Danny Kaye) are World War II army buddies who become successful performers. They pair up with talented sisters Betty and Judy Haynes (Rose-

mary Clooney and Vera Ellen respectively). The quartet heads to Vermont, expecting snow, and is surprised by more than the weather.

From the perfectly period costumes to the intricate song and dance numbers, this film will make anyone's holiday a classic.

ANDREA FRAMIER
Staff Writer

John Hughes, the brilliant mastermind that has enriched the world with cinematic gems such as "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "The Breakfast Club" and "Sixteen Candles," has graced us with the best Christmas movie of all time, **"Home Alone."**

The movie follows Kevin McCallister (played by Macaulay Culkin), a lovable 8-year-old boy who's accidentally left home alone when his family forgets him on their way to Paris. Realizing he's now king of the castle, Kevin stays up late, plays with firecrackers and single-handedly foils two robbers with the most elaborate plot I have ever seen orchestrated on the big screen. Blow torch rigged door? Comic genius.

TOMMY WRIGHT
Sports Editor

Although **"Trading Places"** is not purely a Christmas movie, it takes place during the Christmas season and has Christmas-related themes. Harkening back to a time when Eddie Murphy made good movies, the film tells the story of the Duke brothers' wager to see if they can put a street criminal (Murphy) in the place of a businessman (Dan Akroyd) in their company and have him successfully take over the businessman's role as a broker.



The tables get turned on the brothers and they end up broke, while the former criminal and disgraced businessman hit it big on the commodities market. Ralph Bellamy and Don Ameche reprised their roles as Randolph and Mortimer Duke five years later with a cameo in "Coming to America."

YA-AN CHAN
Staff Writer

The Halloween presence in **"The Nightmare Before Christmas"** doesn't make it any less of a must-watch Christmas movie.

Tired of the scary Halloween celebration year to year, Jack Skellington becomes fascinated by the style and feeling of Christmas. The Halloween Town residents, however, failed to grasp Jack's meaning and compared everything he shared with them to ideas of Halloween.

Fueled by the ghoulishly delightful and unforgettable soundtrack and amazing character design, "The Nightmare Before

Christmas" is an original, daring artistic creation that combines fun and fright.

It's not a kid film, and it's hard to imagine little kids grabbing onto this one as a favorite. Maybe it was horrifying to see a boogie-man chasing Santa, but who says animation is kid stuff?

"The Nightmare Before Christmas" is a long way from the traditional Disney fare, but even with its dark undertones, one will discover messages deep in the heart of the movie and characters.

DANIELLE TORRALBA
Staff Writer

"A Charlie Brown Christmas Story" is an epic Christmas movie for children and adults. It shouldn't go unwatched.

Charlie Brown is upset with how the Peanuts gang is treating the holiday so commercially, and thinks that everyone has forgotten the true meaning of the holiday. When he is put in charge of

picking out a Christmas tree for the pageant, he chooses a lonely, puny one. With the help of Linus's moving speech on what Christmas is really about, the gang comes to understand the true meaning of the holiday.

From the soundtrack to the characters, "A Charlie Brown Christmas Story" is one of the original animated Christmas movies that blow all those heart-felt cliché holiday films out of the water.

ANGELO LANHAM and COLLEEN WATSON
Student Culture Editor and Opinion Editor

What's cooler than a holiday season with a bit of death on the side? Not much, I say, and that's why **"Black Christmas"** is the most awesome Christmas movie ever. You've never seen so many fatalities in a movie featuring Christmas trees. The story's nice and suspenseful, too. You'll never think about saran-wrapped corpses in rocking chairs the same way again.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The need to do more for the environment

Kimberly stated in her article titled “Going green has me seeing red” that environmentalism has gone too far. I could not agree more. It is important to go green but some extremists have gone too far as to living in trees. I think this is immature and I find these extremists to be quite frivolous.

Anything for the environment, right?

We are not doing enough to save the environment, and we as Americans are very behind in the fight against global warming. It does not help that our people are hiding in trees and becoming more and more obsessive about it. We must be cognizant of the environment but at the same time be realistic about how much we should change our personal lives to save it.

I do recycle, but I am not going to go out of my way to go and hug a tree and call it my home. This is quite silly and only associates all environmentalists with frivolity in everyone's eyes.

We should try to avoid that by acknowledging that we are cognizant of the environment and that we are doing everything that we can to help out, but that we are also aware that one person can't solve all of the issues regarding the environment.

Promoting alternative energy sources, hybrid vehicles and alternative fuels are excellent ways of showing this intellectuality and making the cause more credible.

Ironically, I believe it is difficult to take the cause seriously if you have people who are willing to live in a tree for what they believe in.

So next time, try and just encourage your friends to do their best, but do not take it too far.

-Luis Escamilla

School stinks

What is that stench that lingers in the air by the Art and Spartan Bookstore buildings, and where is it coming from?

First, I thought it was the campus trash from all the students hanging out, after doing some investigation and following my nose, I realized it was not the trash and instead was the ginkgo trees on campus.

The ginkgo trees are located on the north end of campus by the Art Building across from the Spartan Bookstore.

The ginkgo trees create a friendly environmental surrounding to the SJSU campus, but the stench of these trees removes the feeling of being on a college campus and instead places you in a dump.

The ginkgo trees create a friendly environmental surrounding to the SJSU campus, but the stench of these trees removes the feeling of being on a college campus and instead places you in a dump. Because of this, the ginkgo

trees cause more problems than they do satisfaction.

One problem is the ginkgo trees make a mess for maintenance who has to pick up the seeds that fall on the ground before they are stepped on, leaving black stains on the cement.

If the seeds are not picked up, students step on them, leaving a foul odor in the area as well as the places that the students walk, such as classrooms and houses.

Finally, the odor from the seeds portrays a bad image to visitors and incoming freshmen. It causes them to think that the campus is dirty and an unsafe environment.

I enjoy walking around campus and seeing the scenery, but I hate the fact that when I walk by a ginkgo tree I have to watch the ground for fear of stepping on a seed. I feel that something needs to happen to these trees so we students can smell the freshness of nature and not the vomiting aroma that floats through campus.

-David Arriaga Jr.

Don't forget to tip

It's official: We're now in a recession. Most of us have been cutting back on those little extras that we once took for granted: movies and entertainment, dining out and travel.

But hey, we all need to relax and relieve some stress once in a while. But when you go out to dinner, valet your car or catch a cab, try not to skimp on the tip to save a few bucks.

An unfortunate effect of an economy in the toilet is that people working in the

service industry are often overlooked.

So the point is, when you are able to tear yourself away from clipping coupons long enough to go out and enjoy yourself, do everyone a favor and don't forget to tip.

-Brett Gifford

Puppy overload

About five weeks have passed since Obama was elected the next president of the United States. But in that time, all we keep hearing about is what type of dog the Obama family will get once they move into the White House.

The media is getting wrapped up in “puppy news” they are forgetting about the real issues at hand. We should be concerned with who Obama will select as part of his staff.

Instead of focusing on a puppy, we need to keep focus until President-elect Obama takes office. There is no reason why the entire nation should be anxiously waiting to see what type of puppy the Obama girls get.

What type of puppy they get has no concern with us, and it is a family matter. Obama's wife and two daughters were extremely supportive throughout the whole election process. So, with all of those long and hard days that these girls were put through, they do deserve to get a puppy of their own.

But why involve the entire United States? Getting a puppy doesn't need to be headline news and featured on the front of magazine covers.

The real issues at hand need to be focused on, and what type of puppy the Obama family will get sure isn't one of them.

-Danielle Stadelman

QUOTE OF THE DAY

“Obviously, like the rest of the people of Illinois, I am saddened and sobered by the news that came out of the U.S. attorney's office today.”

BARACK OBAMA

Said regarding the news that Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich was arrested and accused of selling the president-elect's vacant Senate seat to the highest bidder.

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11 List ender
14 Ore yield
15 Close by
16 Encycl. part
17 Rush-hour pace
18 Boadicea's people
19 Famous Khan
20 Traveler's stops
22 Greedy king of myth
24 Windburnt
28 Josephine's title
30 Least polluted
31 Invigorating
32 Pool problem
33 Bishops' domains
36 — Paulo
37 Oscar or Cornel
38 Weeks per annum?
40 Low cost passage
43 Hangs around
45 Reach the summit
46 Small domestic fowl
47 Goofs (hyph.)
50 Stove parts
51 Allstate rival
52 Boot upper
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54 Extinct birds
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63 Make a speech
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66 In judge's garb
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PREVIOUS PUZZLE SOLVED
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The fundamental role of journalists



DAVID ZUGNONI
RECYCLED TOILET PAPER

I can't believe I'm doing this. What a hypocrite.

Journalism talk is the last thing I want to see on this page. Writing about newspapers in a newspaper is one of my pet peeves. It hardly ever concerns normal readers.

And now I've violated an even worse pet peeve of mine by beginning my column by talking about the writing of a column.

I'm cringing. I think that if you got something to say, you should just say it. Sayonara, kayfabe.

So, here's where this column should have started.

It wasn't until the thought of a career as a reporter sunk in that I realized what a humble role journalism plays in the world.

The point of it is to keep people informed so that they can be healthy members of a society, equipping them with the knowledge needed to affect the world positively.

But journalists rarely do anything more to affect the world themselves. They are exactly what they usually

look like: people who stand around watching something happening.

In fact, journalists aren't supposed to cover stories with which they have any affiliation, despite the seemingly undisputable contention that someone who knows more about a topic is more qualified to write about it.

This odd twist in logic helps keep up a fundamental journalistic ethic that says journalists should tell people what's going on, but are not to tell anybody how to think or what to do.

But there are always going to be implicit expectations they have of their readers: Think something. Do something.

Journalists are supposed to have faith in their readership. A lot of faith. Enough faith to say, "Here's what's going on in the world. You go do something about it."

Journalists are the actors who don't go for the lead role. They are the athletes who sit on the bench at the end of the game. They are the tambourine players.

I digress. There was a time, the peak of my hippiedom to be precise, when I thought that positive change in the world would come from a change in attitudes, values and knowledge of the public.

I thought that if everybody stopped being so damn selfish, misguided and

ignorant, the rest of the world's problems would eventually work themselves out.

But I was the one who was ignorant. The world's biggest problem is the existence of logistical problems.

No matter the quality of people in a society, they'll rely on technology, know-how and grunt work to deal with inevitable problems: how to get food for everybody, how to manage waste, how to operate an economy, to name some of the most basic.

In other words, human decency won't fix a leaky faucet, and neither will knowing how to fix one. There must be action.

It wasn't until the thought of a career as a reporter sunk in that I realized what a humble role journalism plays in the world.

I think that there are some great misconceptions out there about journalism. I think that some people think the information just comes to us somehow, and all we do is put it into words and slap a headline on it.

But journalists actually work day and night to find information so others don't have to waste their time finding it. They seldom have access to information that others don't or can't have. They often deal with resistance from people who would rather not have their business printed for everyone to see, and they often deal with people too lazy to give up a moment of their time.

It's a humble service to the world — even though journalists aren't always humble.

But it's the best thing I can think of at the moment. It won't fix your faucet, but maybe the plumber can read my story on his break.

While you're out in the world actually doing something, I'll be working on a story for you to read the next day.

I'll keep you informed and entertained while you go out and do your thing, and if it turns into something big, I'll make sure you get credit for it.

We have a deal?

This is the last appearance of "Recycled Toilet Paper." David Zugnoni is the Spartan Daily executive editor.

Strong women who shined brightly in 2008



COLLEEN WATSON
CHRONICLING MEDIOCRITY

I think a lot of people have the wrong impression about feminism.

To me, feminism is about having choices. It's the choice to go after that corporate/blue collar job and it's the choice to stay home and raise a family. Neither one is more important than the other — it's what is important to you.

While many people feel that feminism has stalled, I think we have had a really good year for women. I think 2008 has a good chance of being remembered as the year of the woman.

Hillary Clinton was a strong candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination and Sarah Palin was the first female Republican vice presidential candidate. Condoleezza Rice continued as the first black woman to serve as secretary of state.

All were strong women who I think are people that other women can look up to. Sure, none of them were perfect, but really who is? Even Martha Stewart went to jail.

Francoise Barre-Sinoussi shared the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for her codiscovery of human immunodeficiency virus, one of only four women to win this prize since its inception in 1901, and the only woman to win a Nobel Prize in 2008.

She is from France, so maybe this slightly makes up for Rosalind Franklin, whose research was crucial in discovering DNA. She was overlooked at the time and did not receive a Nobel Prize because she died before it was given (she worked in Paris for three years).

Amy Harmon of the New York Times won a Pulitzer Prize, "for her striking examination of the dilemmas and ethical issues that accompany DNA testing, using human stories to sharpen her reports," according to the Pulitzer Prize Web site.

Lt. Gen. Ann Dunwoody became America's first female four-star general.

Dara Torres, a 41-year-old Olympic swimmer, won three silver medals. Not too shabby.

Danica Patrick, on April 20, in Japan, was the first woman to ever win an Indy Car race, and she had the highest championship finish for any American driver this year.

And even Britney Spears got a little less crazy.

I don't think we need another revolution. I think we are on the right track. We are surrounded by strong women, you just need to look around.

SJSU is chock-full of women, with more than 53 percent of the population. Sure, not so great for trying to find a date, but oh well.

Are there any barriers left to break through? Does it even matter?

I am lucky to be a woman in America. I have every opportunity to make something of myself. If I'm a failure it's my own fault. No one tried to keep me down or said I couldn't do anything.

Throughout my life, I've known strong women, teachers, professors, CEOs, police officers (although I wasn't going that fast), construction workers, mothers and reporters. Women who were doing what they wanted, not to score points for feminism, but because this was their life. It was a choice they made.

Of course there are things that women still haven't done. Even though women have every opportunity in countries like America, we can't forget that in other countries women can't vote, can't drive and can't walk down the street by themselves.

Being a feminist to me is making the most of my life. And that is being happy and trying to be the best at whatever I want to do, not what anyone else tells me.

This is the last appearance of "Chronicling Mediocrity." Colleen Watson is the Spartan Daily opinion editor.

A deadly obsession for great deals



MARK POWELL
BINGE THINKING

It's the holiday season. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas. And you know what that means: It's time to start killing each other.

Jdimytai Damour.

Does the name ring a holiday bell? It should. Damour, 34, was the Wal-Mart employee who was smothered to death by a swift, rowdy mob of shoppers at a store in Long Island, N.Y., a couple weeks ago on Black Friday.

According to information reported by the Associated Press and Newsday, Damour, a temporary agency worker from Queens, began opening the retail store's doors around 5 a.m. The crowd of about 2,000 shoppers, including some who had skipped a nice, warm Thanksgiving with their families to stake out a spot in front of the store, rushed through the opening.

And most of us know what happened after that.

Several minutes later, while merely doing his job by opening the store's entrance, Damour was smothered to death by the flow of bargain hunters.

Smothered to death. By holiday shoppers. At Wal-Mart. Of all the ways a human being can fathom just how he

or she will die, I'd wager being crushed by a gang of rabid Wal-Mart patrons would be fairly far down on the list.

And if you're wondering whether friendly feelings of "peace on earth" or "good will toward men" kicked in as Damour was being smashed to death, it didn't.

As other Wal-Mart employees attempted to get to him, their efforts proved fruitless. The incredible rush of people was so great that even those who tried to pull him from the fray were shoved and partially pancaked as well.

Of all the ways a human being can fathom just how he or she will die, I'd wager being crushed by a gang of rabid Wal-Mart patrons would be fairly far down on the list.

Deranged patrons even tried to push first responders, who arrived to administer medical help for Damour, out of their way to continue shopping.

Some customers forcefully maneuvered past local police who arrived at the scene to restore order, and continued shopping.

The would-be purchasers ignored Wal-Mart managers, who informed buyers that an employee had died and the store needed to be closed — and continued shopping.

They continued shopping after being told that the very mob they were a part of caused a person's death.

I don't think these people are getting a spot on Santa's "nice" list this year.

According to the AP, shoppers lined up for items such as 50-inch high definition televisions for less than \$800, brand name upright vacuums for less than \$30, 10.2-megapixel digital cameras for less than \$70 and, remain calm, \$9 DVD copies of "The Incredible Hulk."

And if you don't think that's enough to get you to storm your local retail outlet, Newsday reported the store was also selling "Rush Hour 2" DVD copies for a measly \$2.

"Rush Hour." How tragically fitting.

Adding to the frenzy was the fact that these low, low prices were being rolled back only between the hours of 5 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Local police have reviewed surveillance footage of the incident, but said criminal charges could be difficult to file because of the sheer number of people involved in the stampede.

When order was restored, the store was finally closed. Then, it was reopened several hours later so people could continue to feed their appetite

for more discounted merchandise.

It was a regrettable situation, but it happened almost two weeks ago. Black Friday came and went and no similar incidents have occurred since, so therefore, what's the big deal, right?

Well, it is a big deal. Because in a few weeks, on Christmas Day, a child, or a mother, or a cousin or somebody else is probably going to open a present that was purchased by a family member who stepped on the soon-to-be lifeless body of Jdimytai Damour as they entered that Wal-Mart. And as he struggled through his last few breaths, they struggled to get a primo spot in line on lane No. 4.

I don't have a problem with consuming. It would be a lie to say I wouldn't leap at the chance for a great deal on an item. But it's not worth getting out of bed when I'm usually getting ready to sleep at that time anyway. And it is certainly not worth a person's life.

If we want to continue our obsession with Black Friday and other chaotic holiday shopping sprees, companies and consumers cannot ignore episodes like the one that befell the Wal-Mart in question.

Or else the holiday season is beginning to look a lot like pointless.

This is the last appearance of "Binge Thinking." Mark Powell is a Spartan Daily sports editor.

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CAMPUS VOICES:

How do you study for finals?

Feature by **PETER HIRONAKA**
Staff Writer

Photos by JOEY AKELEY
Staff Writer

DANIEL MALKIN
freshman business major



"There's only one class that I really have to worry about. I'm just going to spend a few hours going over the book and my notes."

DIEGO ROSAS
phomore international business m



"I'll just go review my notes and study the new material we've learned since two weeks ago."

KATIE McDONOUGH
sociology graduate student



"I usually make a study guide by typing it and sharing it with my classmates."

JOHN KIM
biology and chemistry double major



"I like to go back and review all my notes and see where the most important facts popped up more than once, or areas the teacher emphasized the most."

BRIAN BAKER
junior business management major



"I wait until the last minute, and then I'll end up studying all night. Usually it works out."

ERIC DACORRO
senior forensic major



"I usually just wait until the week before because I'm better under pressure."

California is at the head of the class in national college affordability study

JOEY AKELEY
Staff Writer

Although California was the only state to pass a college affordability report, a representative of CSU, SJSU and the report agreed that budget cuts could lead to an increase in college fees.

The National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education administered the report, which graded states based on an average cost for a family to pay for college, said Darcie Harvey, project coordinator at the center.

"The center is concerned that the budget crisis will result in a decrease in state programs, which are key to affordability in many families, which would also force colleges to increase tuition levels," she said.

Harvey said she was concerned for low-income families.

"Obtaining a higher education degree is the ticket into a middle-class lifestyle," she said. "If families are not able to afford to put their children through college, then it is really going to affect the ability of those potential students to make it into a middle-class lifestyle later in their lives."

Pat Lopes Harris, SJSU's

media relations specialist, said budget cuts may force SJSU to increase fees.

"It has resulted in less funding to the CSU at a time when enrollment has been increasing," Lopes Harris said. "So, we are not only going to need to limit enrollment, but it is possible that the CSU will raise fees, because the state budget has not provided the resources that are needed."

Teresa Ruiz, a public affairs specialist for the office of the CSU chancellor, said she felt similarly about the budget cuts.

"The outlook is not very positive, because we don't have a final budget and we know California is in a lot of debt," she said.

Harvey said California received a C-minus mainly because its relatively inexpensive community colleges brought the total down.

“Probably the primary reason why California did well was because there are a lot of low-priced college opportunities here,” Harvey said. “In California, there is a very large community college sector, and about 65 percent of students are enrolled into the community college sector.”

Ruiz said CSUs provide a good bargain for the quality of

education that is received.

“CSU has and will continue to ensure students don’t pay for more than one third of their education cost,” Ruiz said.

Lopes Harris said the CSU system remains among the most affordable in the nation.

“CSU works very hard to keep college education affordable for all people of California,” she said. “In fact, it is the CSU’s mission.”

Harvey said that while public four-year colleges have become less affordable since the 1990s, California colleges were overall the most affordable in the nation.

Brian Posadas, a sophomore kinesiology major, said paying for college is rough for him and his family.

"We don't have a lot of money," Posadas said. "We have financial aid, and I've got a lot of family helping out and myself. I am working a job, so it helps pay for it."

Andrew Veggian, a senior civil engineering major, said he was content with the price of tuition at SJSU.

"I heard schools back east charge five, six thousand for a single semester, which is three times as much as what we pay," he said.

